

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND DON KNABE

August 2, 2016

On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion requesting that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) work with multiple County agencies to provide information on the County's efforts to address intimate partner violence (known more commonly as domestic violence). The CEO's office submitted a report to the Board on May 9, 2016. That report highlighted that, although tens of thousands of Los Angeles County residents experience intimate partner violence every year, there are only approximately 1,700 shelter beds targeted to these survivors. The 2016 Homeless Point-In-Time Count conducted by the Los Angeles Home Services Authority (LAHSA) found that 18% of people experiencing homelessness have also experienced intimate partner violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or stalking. Close to half of all women who experience homelessness report a history of abuse.

For survivors of intimate partner violence who experience homelessness as a result of abuse, access to shelter and housing that is safe, confidential and secure is critical. The CEO's report further highlighted that, as currently structured, mainstream housing programs such as permanent supportive housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, and rapid re-housing may not adequately address the needs of intimate partner violence

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(IPV) survivors. IPV survivors face tremendous barriers to accessing these programs because of histories of trauma, language barriers, and need for personal information to remain confidential. Further, these survivors often do not qualify for housing programs that require applicants to have a history of homelessness and/or a disabling condition. These survivors face additional barriers to accessing housing programs that utilize market-rate housing because they often have suffered financial abuse that damages their credit histories. They sometimes need more time than other people experiencing homelessness to achieve financial self-sufficiency because of financial abuse, legal issues, the need for safety and privacy, and the challenge of securing child care where their children will also be safe from their abuser.

The May 9, 2016 report highlighted the need for a continuum of housing options for IPV survivors that includes emergency shelter, bridge housing, transitional housing, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing. The County has a wide array of talented community-based organizations that provide aspects of this continuum, but gaps remain and existing programs face challenges.

Multiple jurisdictions around the country have created robust systems that provide rapid re-housing as a housing option for IPV survivors. The County recognizes that the rapid re-housing model can and does work for some survivors, and that the County could benefit from utilizing available experience and data to establish an IPV Rapid Re-Housing Pilot program that will build on those best practices of rapid re-housing that cater to the unique needs of IPV survivors. Rapid Re-housing assistance provided through the pilot should be well-targeted and utilize an assessment tool to ensure that survivors have access to the housing models and services that best meet their needs. This pilot should allow financial assistance to be provided for up to 24

months and include the flexibility and support survivors need to stabilize in the community. This flexibility should include the ability for survivors to move when their safety is threatened, flexible resources to address security concerns, childcare, or other barriers to stability, and flexibility to support survivors in relocating to other areas. Survivors need support that is provided through a survivor-centered approach by well-trained case managers and clinicians who understand trauma-informed care, have the ability to provide services in the survivors' communities and homes, and have the cultural competency and language ability to communicate easily with survivors.

Finally, the County should ensure that we are growing the continuum of housing resources available to IPV survivors by asking the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to continue to dedicate Continuum of Care McKinney-Vento funding to high-performing transitional housing programs, as well as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing programs which serve IPV survivors.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to transfer the \$1,000,000 in currently unallocated Homeless Prevention Initiative Net-County Costs dedicated to Homeless Initiative Strategy B3 - Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Rehousing - to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to develop and implement an IPV Rapid Re-Housing Pilot program.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct LAHSA to implement an IPV Rapid Re-Housing Pilot program by:

A. Establishing an Intimate Partner Violence and Homelessness Advisory Group consisting of IPV providers, homeless services providers, a representative of the CEO's office, related county departments, and representatives of local cities with expertise in IPV that will convene at least quarterly to inform the pilot design,

assessment tool, performance outcomes, and annual reporting on the results of the pilot and lessons learned;

B. Hiring a consultant with experience in IPV programming to work with the advisory group to collect recommendations for the pilot design, the development or adoption of an appropriate IPV housing assessment tool, and performance outcomes;

C. Working with the CEO Homeless Initiative, the Department of Public Social Services, Community and Senior Services, the Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, and the Department of Health Services and the consultant to establish a scope of work for the pilot program;

D. Providing an interim report to the Board with the pilot design, assessment tool recommendation(s), performance outcomes, and scope of work before a competitive process is conducted to implement the pilot;

E. Conducting a competitive process to secure a provider, or consortium of providers, to conduct the pilot program over a three-year period; and

F. Reporting annually to the Board on the progress, outcomes, and lessons learned through the pilot.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the HUD Secretary strongly urging HUD to support, and not penalize, Continuums of Care that continue to use McKinney-Vento resources to fund high-performing transitional housing programs, as well as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing programs, dedicated to survivors of IPV.